

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

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NEWS RELEASE

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Principal Robert C. Rae announced today that the Sir George Williams University Committee on Cooperation with Loyola has, after prolonged deliberations, agreed that Sir George Williams University proceed to discuss a full and complete merger with Loyola of Montreal.

Principal Rae said, "This action is necessary in order to enhance the opportunities for post-secondary students in English language university education in the Province of Quebec."

The Committee was quick to point out that this is not to be construed as a hasty decision. Informal discussions have been going on between student groups and faculty groups of both institutions for some time.

The nine-member Committee with faculty, student, administration, governor, and alumni representation, feels that universities do not simply serve their own interests, but must consider how they can best serve the needs of the Province, and in particular, the needs of our youth. An investigation of the possibilities of complete merger with Loyola may show ways by which the calibre of English language university education can be enhanced.

The Committee intends to investigate the possibilities of better utilization of human and physical resources that a merger would produce. While large size in a university does not necessarily constitute a virtue in itself and does not guarantee quality, neither does smallness guarantee quality or effectiveness. However, savings in basic expenditures are often related to the scale or size of the university as they are in government, in business, and in science -- and these cannot be ignored. Cost savings in this area coupled with lower capital outlays in the long run would indirectly benefit the taxpayer at a time when the demand for educational funds is at an all-time peak.

The objective, as identified by the Committee, is to integrate the facilities and services of both institutions. Where, by their very nature, some departments cannot be combined, separate identity would be respected. An integrated single university would reflect the pluralistic environment in which we live, where all viewpoints can be presented for critical analysis. The strengthened institution resulting from such a merger would be better equipped to provide the kind of education necessary to the individual for life in our complex society.

From the office of: Malcolm Stone,
Information Officer.